



Cutter FORWARD undocks from OAK RIDGE on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## A Place In MEP History

### Undocking of Final Two MEP Cutters

The final two cutters to be modernized under the Mission Effect Project – Cutters FORWARD and MOHAWK – secured their place in MEP history in the month of May, each completing their dry-dock period and successfully departing the assets that kept them “high and dry” for the past several months. The flawless undockings brought words of praise for the historical evolutions:

#### CGC FORWARD

*“Very impressed with your work. Lots of repairs to OAKRIDGE with calculations and behind the scene work. Great to see the cutter back in the water after 23 weeks!”*

—RDML Joseph Vojvodich,  
Director of Acquisition Programs (CG-93)

*“A tremendous effort! Can’t take the preps and planning for granted with the Yard’s emphasis on safety for this successful evolution. Being moored up at pier with zero leaks and having 0 degree list without any added weights necessary is great and a great team effort. BZ to everyone.”*

—CDR Chris Webb,  
CO, Legacy Sustainment Support Unit

*“One of the smoothest undockings I have ever seen. It was very successful!”*

—Charlie Zerbe,  
Yard Production Manager

#### CGC MOHAWK

*“Evolution went very well with safety focus and all checks and back-ups in place. Great job by all teams and especially the Yard for reaching this undocking evolution/milestone as well as all efforts to get us here.”*

—CDR Chris Webb, CO,  
Legacy Sustainment Support Unit

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Cutter MOHAWK is set to sea off the shiplift on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

# The Commanding Officer's Column

by Captain George A. Lesher



Greetings, Shipmates!

We are well into the summer, and it is flying by as usual. Seems like just a short time ago we were talking about snow days.

The past couple of months featured a couple of very notable retirements in CG Yard history. We bid farewell to RADM Rábago (former Yard CO and Industrial Manager) who held his retirement ceremony here at the Yard next to the ship lift, and we said

goodbye to Charlie Zerbe, who finished out his 48-year career as our Production Manager since 1995. It was a bittersweet moment on both occasions as these two men meant a lot to me, personally having both taught me many things about Naval Engineering and how to be a leader.

We also celebrated the SFLC Change of Command & promoting of the former commander, now RDML Michael Haycock, who is the Coast Guard's Chief Engineer. We welcome the new SFLC Commander, CAPT Doug Schofield, whom many of you know from his working with the Yard on various projects over the years.

The 110', 210' and 270' Mission Effectiveness Project will have ended prior to the next Yard newsletter with delivery of CGCs FORWARD and MOHAWK. Thanks to the many folks who have been involved in

making this one of the most successful cutter renovation projects in CG history. We are planning a ceremony later this summer to formally recognize the program's end and illustrate just how successful it was.

With the end, comes a new beginning – as I write this, the first of the ISVS (In Service Vessel Sustainment) projects begins with MORRO BAY's dry-docking on the syncrolift. She will be in the Yard for approximately 12 months as we conduct a service life extension project replacing many major systems on the cutter.

Please be safe as many of us travel on summer leave, enjoy picnics or enjoy some summer recreation.

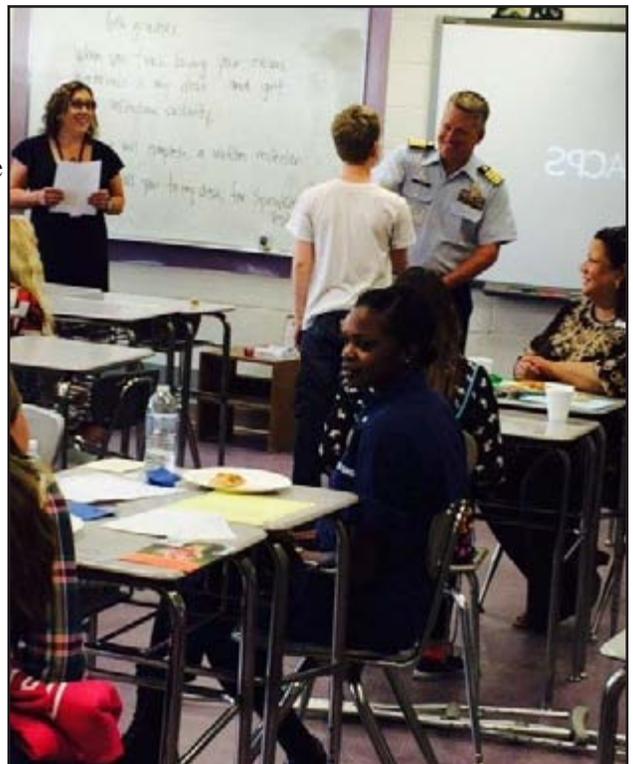
Thanks for all you do,

Semper Paratus!

## Successful Completion of Yearlong Educational Partnership Venture!

Mentors from the Baltimore area Coast Guard commands joined their student mentees at Brooklyn Park Middle School in Brooklyn Park, Maryland, for an "End of Year" celebration on Monday, June 9, 2014, marking the conclusion of the school's inaugural "Just Lunch" program. Ten military members and one Coast Guard civilian employee joined eleven students for a one hour lunch, held monthly at the northern Anne Arundel County middle school throughout the 2013-'14 school year. The program was designed to encourage academic excellence among the students through mentorship with positive role models. During the lunch period, Coast Guard representatives and their students discussed goal setting techniques, teambuilding and conflict resolution strategies, and tips for self-respect to become life-long learners and productive members of society. The Partnership-In-Education initiative began last September, and plans are in place to continue the mentorship when classes begin at Brooklyn Park Middle School this fall.

*Captain Lesher (center right), congratulates a Brooklyn Park Middle School student (center left) on his participation in the "Just Lunch" program. The Captain commented, "Continue to push forward and do great things!" Other Baltimore area Coast Guard commands joining the program this year included Sector Baltimore, the Legacy Sustainment Support Unit, and the Electronics Repair Facility. (Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Park Middle School)*



“We’re Working On It!”



*Pictured counter-clockwise: CGC BARBARA MABRITY (WLM 559) – Mobile, Alabama; CGC OCRACOCKE (WPB 1307) – St. Petersburg, Florida; CGC DILIGENCE (WMEC 616) – Wilmington, North Carolina; CGC FORWARD (WMEC 911) – Portsmouth, Virginia; CGC MOHAWK (WMEC 913) – Key West, Florida*



*CGC WILLIAM TATE (WLM 560) – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*



*CGC SEA HORSE (WPB 87361) – Portsmouth, Virginia*



*CGC SANIBEL (WPB 1312) – Woods Hole, Massachusetts*



*CGC OCRACOCKE (WPB 1307) – St. Petersburg, Florida*

## Yard Hosts ADM PAPP; Extends Retirement Best Wishes to RADM Rábago

The Yard hosted the retirement ceremony of Rear Admiral Ronald Rábago at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8 and welcomed aboard then Coast Guard Commandant Robert Papp-the 24<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard - among other dignitaries. The ceremony was held on the shiplift with the 270' WMEC Cutter MOHAWK serving as backdrop. The all-hands event provided the opportunity for Admiral Papp and Rear Admiral Rábago to address their family, guests, and the workforce of the Yard.

In his opening remarks, Admiral Papp commented, "It is a thrill to be back at the Yard and relay thanks from the Coast Guard for the tremendous work you do. You have always produced quality work and find ways to take care of it. You provide great service for every ship that comes in. Thank you."

Rear Admiral Rábago served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 36 years and was the Yard's Commanding Officer from 2003 to 2005 and Industrial Manager from 2001 to 2003. He retired from the Coast Guard as



Assistant Commandant of Engineering & Logistics, the "Chief Engineer of the Coast Guard," a position he held for the past three years.

Rear Admiral Rábago expressed his appreciation for the Yard during his retirement remarks. He relayed, "The Coast Guard operational fleet is one of the toughest Coast Guard customers. The craftsmen here have no equal for keeping our fleet running. I am most

grateful for your hard work and dedication. I could think of no better location to end my career than at the Coast Guard Yard."

In the photo above, the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Color Guard presents colors at the opening of the retirement ceremony. Pictured left to right on stage are: ADM Robert Papp, RADM Ronald Rábago, and LT Todd Fowler, Sector Baltimore Chaplain.

## SFLC Changes Command; Holds Frocking Ceremony for RDML Haycock



The Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) held a Change of Command and Frocking Ceremony at 9 a.m. on May 15, 2014. Rear Admiral Ronald Rábago, Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics, presided over the ceremonies held under tents on the Yard's parade field. Over 500 family members, guests, and employees of the SFLC attended.

Captain Douglas Schofield (see article on page 5) assumed command of the SFLC from Captain Michael Haycock who had served as the fourth Commander of the SFLC since August 2011. The Surface Forces Logistics Center was established in January 2009 and is the single logistics center for the Coast Guard. The SFLC provides maintenance, technical & design information, and spare parts for the Coast Guard's fleet of nearly 250 ships and 1800 boats. The SFLC is home based at the Yard but has employees and offices geographically dispersed across the United States.

Following the Change of Command, Rear Admiral Rábago frocked Captain Haycock to the rank of Rear Admiral (Lower Half), United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral Haycock will assume Rear Admiral Rábago's former position as the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics, at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and undertake responsibility for all naval, civil, aeronautical, industrial engineering, logistics, environmental, and energy management programs of the U.S. Coast Guard.

*RADM Ronald Rábago (left), Assistant Commandant for Engineering & Logistics, frocks Captain Michael Haycock (right) to the rank of Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML). RDML Haycock assumed his new position of Assistant Commandant for Engineering & Logistics (CG-4) upon Rear Admiral Rábago's retirement from the Coast Guard.*

## CAPT Schofield Assumes Command of SFLC

Captain Douglas Schofield assumed command of the Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) on May 15, 2014. He is the fifth Commander in the five year history of the SFLC.

Captain Schofield, a native of Lancaster, PA, graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1991, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree with high honors in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. He holds Master of Science degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering and Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Captain Schofield received a DHS Program Manager Level III Certification in November 2009.

A permanent Cutterman, Captain Schofield served four sea tours including: Student Engineer aboard

CGC RELIANCE (WMEC 615); Engineer Officer aboard CGC LEGARE (WMEC 912); Executive Officer aboard CGC ESCANABA (WMEC 907), and Commanding Officer aboard CGC THETIS (WMEC 910).

Captain Schofield's tours ashore include: Port Engineer and Executive Officer at Naval Engineering Support Unit Boston; Offshore Patrol Cutter Program Manager's Representative and Executive Officer at Project Resident Office Pascagoula, and most recently, the Offshore Patrol Cutter Project Manager in Washington, DC. As a project manager, he was responsible to contract the design of the largest acquisition in Coast Guard history.

The Captain's military awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commen-



*Captain Douglas Schofield, USCG*

andation Medals, and several unit awards.

Captain Schofield is married to the former Christine Kowack of North Stonington, CT. They have two children, Colman, age 11, and Conrad, age 9.

Welcome Aboard!

## Yard Hosts DHS Cybersecurity Specialists For STEM Student Outreach Initiative

The Yard hosted members of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cyber Management Security Initiative (CMSI) and 40 local college

students pursuing careers in the cybersecurity field for a panel discussion and tenant command tour on Thursday, June 5. DHS held the event

at the Yard to promote awareness of the Department's need for a cyber ready workforce and to highlight cybersecurity systems currently in use among DHS

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*Commander Scott Woolsey (far right), Branch Chief, Electronics Repair Facility (ERF), Command, Control & Communications Engineering Center, discusses use of the Global Positioning System and cybersecurity at the C3CEN ERF lab with visiting students and DHS members of the CMSI.*



*Ms. Renee Forney (right), Executive Director of the DHS Cyberskills Management Support Initiative, introduces panelists YuLin Bingle (left), Director, Cyber Intelligence and Analysis Division, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, DHS, and Stuart Tryon (center right), Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigative Division, United States Secret Service Headquarters, at the opening panel discussion held at the Yard.*

## Congratulations, FEB Gold Medalists!

Tim Sheppard of the Services Group and the CGC BEAR Fire Team from the Electro Group came home on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with Gold Medals by capturing top honors in the 2014 “Excellence In Federal Awards” competition sponsored by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board (FEB). The special event, held at the Martin’s West Banquet Center in Woodlawn, Maryland, is the annual FEB program that recognizes local civil servants and military members for outstanding work in select job categories. Over 850 people attended this year’s ceremony, now in its 47<sup>th</sup> year of competition.

The FEB presented the award of “Outstanding Supervisor-Trades & Craft” to Tim Sheppard. He is a Rigger Foreman at the Yard and responsible for all rigging activities

conducted by the Industrial Department. Last year – one the busiest years at the Yard supporting a variety of Coast Guard customers, Sheppard ensured all rigging requests during dockings, undockings, equipment removal and installations, weight testing, etc. were performed in a professional manner while meeting the challenges of minimal manpower. His efforts contributed to many successful completions of repair availabilities, Mission Effectiveness Project modernizations, and renovations. Yard management and ships officers & crews applauded Tim Sheppard throughout the year for his outstanding performance and dedication.

Five members of the Yard Electro Group – Michael Ebert, Shane McLucas, Dennis Ober, Robert Mitten,

and Keith Hare – were recognized in the “Outstanding Administrative Work Group or Team” category. In 2013, the Coast Guard Medium Endurance Cutter BEAR suffered a fire that destroyed cables, power panels, lighting and transformers in the cutter’s Damage Control Shop. BEAR sustained additional casualties to ship-wide ventilation systems including the engine room, lighting, power panel feeders, degaussing, and communications, internet, security, & television networks.

The Yard dispatched a team of electricians to the cutter’s homeport in Portsmouth, Virginia. Over a course of a record-breaking 49 days, the team worked seven days a week, 12-14 hours a day, ripping out and installing over 21,000 feet of cable, installing new lighting, power panels and transformers, restoring 100% power to the ship. Their extraordinary efforts allowed the cutter to set sail and perform critical search & rescue and law enforcement cases on the east coast.

Congratulations from the Yard family to all Gold Medal winners of 2014! Your contributions are worthy of high praise and recognition from the federal community in Baltimore.



*Tim Sheppard, X40, displays the “Outstanding Supervisor-Trades & Crafts” Award in the 2014 “Excellence In Federal Career Award” competition. (Photo courtesy of Baltimore FEB)*



*Michael Ebert accepts the “Outstanding Administrative Work Group or Team” Award on behalf of his fellow teammates in the Yard Electro Group, X30. (Photo courtesy of Baltimore FEB)*

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**MEP**, cont. from pg 1

The Cutter FORWARD was the last cutter to arrive for MEP. Its modernization began in November 2013, and it will sail on July 18th.

The Cutter MOHAWK arrived in August 2013 and will depart the Yard on August 8th. MOHAWK will have the distinction of being the last MEP cutter to be delivered and will close out the MEP legacy at the Yard.

The Mission Effectiveness Project began at the Yard in 2005 and concludes this summer. When the project ends, the Yard will have completed upgrade on fourteen 210’, seventeen 110’, and thirteen 270’ (Phase I and Phase II) cutters. The MEP has consistently achieved its goals of on-time and on-budget deliveries throughout the past nine years.

### Shipjacks Capture 2014 Commandant's Cup

With many Baltimore area Coast Guard military and civilian team members, the Skipjacks captured the Commandant's Cup in the 2014 Coast Guard Ice Hockey Tournament. They played in a series of games on May 2-3 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual ice hockey competition drew over 100 Coast Guard players from across the United States. The tournament is open to all active duty, active reserve and full time employees of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary and their immediate family members (son, daughter, wife or husband).

The Skipjacks team included players from the Yard, SFLC, Station Curtis Bay, Station Depoe Bay, Sector Delaware Bay, and CGCs ESCANABA, FORWARD, MELLON & MIDGETT. The team went 6-0 and won the championship game 3-2 over the Revenue Cutter Service team who were winners of the Commandant's Cup for the last seven years.

The objectives of the Commandant's Cup are to develop team play, exhibit positive sportsmanship, instill a competitive spirit, showcase athletic talent,

and generate awareness for the 1942-1944 "U.S. Coast Guard Cutters." This famous World War II ice hockey team was at the Coast Guard Yard and made up of many skaters who had left professional hockey careers to enlist in the Coast Guard and fulfill their wartime commitment. They came to the Yard to attend boot camp, organized a hockey team, and entered the Baltimore ice hockey league. Known as the "Star Spangled Skaters", the "Cutters" played at home and away games, stirring needed patriotism. They were a "bright spot in a time

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#### Yard Enlisted Member of the Quarter



YN2 Christopher White, SPO  
FY 14, Second Quarter

#### Yard Civilian Employee of the Quarter



Andrew Dove, Outside Machine Shop  
FY 14, Second Quarter

#### DHS Visit, cont. from pg 5

agencies.

DHS panelists included the Director of the DHS Cyber Intelligence and Analysis Division; a Special Agent-in-Charge from the U.S. Secret Service, and a Special Agent from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Among topics discussed were DHS use of cyber systems to investigate financial cyber crimes, to collaborate with intelligence partner agencies on protection of the nation's infrastructure, and to monitor criminal child exploitation activity on the Internet. Students taking courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, (STEM), with concentrations in cyber security, represented Morgan State

University, Johns Hopkins University, American University, Catholic University, George Washington University, Loyola College of Maryland, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Frostburg State University, Towson State University, Anne Arundel Community College, and Carroll County Community College.

Following the panel discussions, panelists and students viewed state-of-the-art cyber systems in use at two Yard tenant commands. The tour included a visit to the Command, Control and Communications (C3CEN) for exposure to use of Global Positioning System (GPS) interference/spoofing and the affect of

cybersecurity on various Coast Guard electronic navigation systems. In the afternoon, students walked to Station Curtis Bay to board a 45-foot Response Boat Medium (RBM) for demonstration of GPS applications during Coast Guard search & rescue and law enforcement cases, and discussion of cyber threats and their affect on Coast Guard operations.

The CSMI event at the Yard was the third cybersecurity forum conducted by DHS hosting agencies, to date. The Department intends to organize other visits throughout the country to encourage students' pursuit of a career in cybersecurity and related fields.

## Yard Leaves Its Mark On Coast Guard Academy History

*(reference March/April 2014 "Yard News," page 2)*

On April 25, 2014, the Fifth District Coast Guard Auxiliary presented a historical marker to Captain Leshner and the men and women of the Yard commemorating the establishment in 1899 of the first permanent site of the Revenue Cutter Service School of Instruction at the Arundel Cove Depot (today's Coast Guard Yard). The Revenue Cutter Service was the predecessor of today's U.S. Coast Guard.

For a decade, the small boat repair depot provided berthing space with arrival of the clipper ship CHASE in 1900, followed by the ORIOLE and ITASCA, and classroom space in a Civil War era wooden building for the cadets' instruction. With increased shipyard activity and outgrowing living and classroom spaces, the School of Instruction moved from the Yard in 1910 to its present day location in New London, Connecticut. In 1915, the School was renamed the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

The Fifth District Coast Guard Auxiliary raised funds to cast a solid brass marker commemorating this important part of history for the Coast



*Captain Leshner (center) joins members of the Fifth Coast Guard District Auxiliary at Fleet Hall on the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup> to unveil a historical marker commemorating the Yard as the first permanent site of the Coast Guard Academy from 1899 to 1910. The ceremony preceded the Yard's 115<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration the next day, April 26, 2014.*

Guard, the Yard, and the Coast Guard Academy. The marker is affixed to a granite memorial and displayed in a garden at the entrance of Fleet Hall, Building #33.

Operation of the Revenue Cutter Service School of Instruction at the Yard from 1899 to 1910 had been traditionally noted in the shipyard's records, but there was no permanent memorial highlighting this critical piece of history. This unique, historical fact is no longer buried in books, but prominently displayed at the Coast Guard's only, 115-year-old shipyard for all to see and appreciate.



*The Revenue Cutter Service Class of Cadets of 1905 at the Yard*

## “A Grateful Nation Remembers”

The Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands held their annual Memorial Day Service at the Yard Veterans Monument following morning colors on Friday, 23 May. The all-hands ceremony, with many civilian employees in attendance, has been held at the Yard for over 50 years.

LT Todd Fowler, Sector Baltimore Chaplain, opened with a remembrance prayer. Captain Leshar followed with brief remarks. SK2 Maria Schoch (left in photo at right), SFLC, placed a memorial wreath at the monument in recognition of those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our country. SK2 Schoch is the 2014 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year. The Memorial Day ceremony concluded with taps.



### Skipjacks, cont. from pg 7

when there was little to cheer about.” They won the 1942-’43 Eastern Amateur Hockey League Championship and the 1943-’44 U.S. Amateur

Title. Still to this day, the “Cutters” are considered to be one of the best all-American ice hockey teams to have ever played the sport.

Congratulations, Skipjacks, on contributing to the legacy of Coast Guard Yard ice hockey and on your national title win!



*Skipjack players pictured in the photo above are: (back row) David Umberger; BMI Paul Fisher; LTJG Anders Manley; ENS John Salinas; LTJG Chris Martin. (middle row) MST2 Salvatore Loggia; BMI Matt Sprague; Shawn Reed-Yard; BMI Jason Levin-Station Curtis Bay; MST2 Colin Donovan. (front row) AN Tyler Slomkowski-Yard; EMI Thomas Davies-SFLC; LTJG Kyle Johnson. ( U.S. Coast Guard official photo)*

## Yard Homeport Ship Sets Historic Buoy

For the past 42 years, a Yard homeport ship has set the commemorative red, white and blue Francis Scott Key buoy in waters near Baltimore's Harbor to mark the spot where Francis Scott Key composed his famous "Star-Spangled Banner." During the bombardment of Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814, the British warship imprisoning the lyricist

was anchored in the Patapsco River at a location near today's Francis Scott Key Bridge. Francis Scott Key wrote his National Anthem at "dawn's early light" when, after a night of fierce fighting, America's flag "was still there" and waving "o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Every spring, the Coast Guard sets the "stars and stripes" painted buoy at

the historic location. Coast Guard crews bring the buoy back to the Yard's buoy lot in the fall.

This year on May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Cutter JAMES RANKIN, a 175-foot buoy tender homeported at the Yard, departed with crew and guests on board for one of many celebrations in Baltimore commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812. Members of the Baltimore Historical Society along with park rangers from Fort McHenry wore period uniforms and provided a narrative of historical events. *(Photo courtesy of Rick Eschenbach, Yard)*



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Captain George Leshner  
Commanding Officer

Dottie Mitchell  
Editor

Jennifer Walter  
Collateral Duty Graphic Designer

## Department of Homeland Security U.S. Coast Guard Yard

Mail Stop #5  
2401 Hawkins Point Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226-1797

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